

TO: Chairman and Members

DATE: January 13, 2011

**SUBJECT: Probation and Court-Based Alternatives
Release of Request for Proposals**

AGENDA ITEM: H

RESOURCE PERSON: Oscar E. Villegas

**ACTION: X
INFORMATION:**

Summary: This agenda item requests approval to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Probation and Court-Based Alternatives Project as recommended by the Executive Steering Committee (ESC), and approved by the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP) at its meeting on January 12, 2011.

Background: Recent studies have shown that many youth being held in secure detention settings are being held for technical probation violations and related court order violations. Evidence further suggests many of these youth who are being held in county detention settings pose no real threat to public safety, yet are contributing to issues of overcrowding and are unnecessarily driving up the costs of detention. As a result, in August of 2010, the SACJJDP, which oversees CSA's implementation of the Title II funds, set aside a total of \$1.5 million statewide to support a competitive RFP with the goal of supporting strategies that reduce the number of non-violent youth being placed into secure detention. In October 2010, the SACJJDP appointed Mr. Winston Peters, SACJJDP Member to chair an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) to oversee the development of an RFP in support of this goal. Six other subject matter experts within the juvenile justice system also participated on this ESC, and met in November and December 2010 to develop the attached draft RFP.

The goal of the attached RFP is to support strategies that will focus on reducing the number of non-violent youth in secure detention through changes in how county probation department and courts address violations of probation (VOPs), failures to appear (FTAs), and bench warrants. These grant funds are intended to support counties that may have already implemented certain strategies but wish to further address their local needs, as well as those counties that are for the first time considering system changes such as this. The RFP is intended to focus on youth under the age of 18 and address:

- ✓ The process for how VOPs, FTAs and bench warrant results in secure detention,
- ✓ Methods of reducing the incidence of VOPs, FTAs and bench warrants, and
- ✓ Changes in the assessment and classification of juveniles that will result in a more judicious use of secure detention.

Counties will be allowed to request up to a maximum of \$500,000, for the period of July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012. Only county probation departments are eligible to apply, but each must have the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge identified as a collaborative partner.

The following timeline details the development and release of the RFP and award recommendations:

January 17, 2011 – RFP released to the field

February 24, 2011 – Proposals due to CSA

March 4 thru 18, 2011 – Review and rating of proposals by the ESC

April 13 and May 12, 2011 - Funding recommendations made to SACJJD and CSA Board, respectively

July 1, 2011 – Grant period begins.

Recommendation/Action Needed:

1. Approve the release of the Probation and Court-Based Alternative Project RFP as recommended by the Executive Steering Committee and the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.